

# Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Doug Stuke



*Sandhill Crane*



**Nature Center Staff:**

Brad Bumgardner

David Garner

**November Nature Center Hours: 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. CST**

**Closed Mondays**

**[www.interpretiveservices.in.gov](http://www.interpretiveservices.in.gov)**

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring a parent with you.

## **Friday November 6**

### ***11:00am Singing Sands Preschool Hour.***

Join us each Friday in November as we explore nature with kids 3-5 years of age. Registration is limited to 15 students and pre-registration closes the Thursday before each program. Children will learn a new topic each week, with activities, stories, and a short nature hike. Program fee of \$5.00 or \$15.00 for all 4 weeks. Call 219-926-1390 to sign up. **This week's topic: "snakes"**

***5:30pm Owl Banding in the Dunes.*** Learn about this amazing new research and education project going on in the dunes! Meet fellow owl fans at the Nature Center auditorium for a look at the tiny saw-whet owl. Afterwards we'll tour our owl banding nets to see if we can't catch one or two. Bring flashlights and a warm jacket! BB

## **Saturday November 7**

***10am Fall Color Foray!*** Fall is a great time to visit the Dune forests... no mosquitoes! Meet at the Nature Center for a spectacular look at the late fall color from atop Mt. Jackson. We'll be out for about an hour. DG

***2pm Dunes Creek Restoration Tour.*** You may notice the construction going on now at the main beach parking lot. Meet the interpreter at the Campground Gate for a 45-minute tour of some of the creek restoration, or "daylighting," that is occurring here this fall. DG

## **Sunday November 8**

***10am Feed the Birds.*** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. DG

***2pm November Wetlands Hike.*** Come explore why November in the swamp is a special place! Meet the Naturalist at the Nature Center for this easy, 45-minute hike. Join us! DG

## **Wednesday November 11**

***5:30pm Owl Banding in the Dunes.*** Learn about this amazing new research and education project going on in the dunes! Meet fellow owl fans at the Nature Center auditorium for a look at the tiny saw-whet owl. Afterwards we'll tour our owl banding nets to see if we can't catch one or two. Bring flashlights and a warm jacket! BB

## **Friday November 13**

### ***11:00am Singing Sands Preschool Hour.***

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## **Saturday November 14**

**10am GPS Scavenger Hunt.** Join us for a scavenger hunt with a techno twist! We'll explore the world of GPS use and geocaching, while looking for hidden treasures. Prizes for everyone! Meet outside the Nature Center. DG

**2pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Sandhill Crane Tour.** Join us at the Nature Center for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual tour to visit the crane gathering at Jasper-Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area. Called Indiana's largest wildlife spectacle, JPFWA hosts up to 30,000 cranes nightly right now. This special tour begins with a short program, then special bus ride (~45 min) to view the gathering at dusk. We return around 6pm. Pre-registration is limited, required, and costs \$20 per person. 219-926-1390.

## **Sunday November 15**

### **10am Bird Banding Demonstrations.**

Explore our early winter feeder birds at the dunes this morning. We'll introduce folks to the science of bird banding and the research that we learn from these amazing winged critters. Meet inside the Nature Center. BB

**2pm Indiana State Parks: 100 years of Fun!** Come to the Nature Center for a peak at the new Indiana State Parks documentary celebrating our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary coming up. Titled "Indiana State Parks: Treasures in your Backyard," this PBS production captures many of the early parks, such as the dunes. Total time approximately 50 minutes. Join us!

## **Saturday November 20**

### **11:00am Singing Sands Preschool Hour.**

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## **Saturday November 21**

**10am Late Fall in the Marsh.** Join us for a 45-minute trek into the dune marshes and wetlands. We'll look for signs of life and other interesting fall items this morning. Meet outside the Nature Center. BB

**2pm Shipwreck Tales.** Hundreds of shipwrecks line the Indiana shoreline of Lake Michigan. Delve into the early days of sailing the lakes at the Nature Center Auditorium this afternoon. Afterwards, we'll take an optional tour to the pavilion to look at some artifacts from a state park shipwreck. Great program for the history buffs. BB

## **Sunday November 22**

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. BB

### **2pm Mapping the Dunes through Time.**

Explore the past with modern technology in the Nature Center this morning. With the aid of Google Earth, we'll look at historical photos and maps of the dunes as she has changed through time. Join us this afternoon! BB

## **Thursday November 26**

**Happy Thanksgiving!**  
**Nature Center Closed Today**

## **Friday November 27**

### **11:00am Singing Sands Preschool Hour.**

Join us each Friday in November as we explore nature with kids 3-5 years of age. Registration is limited to 15 students and pre-registration closes the Thursday before each program. Children will learn a new topic each week, with activities, stories, and a short nature hike. Program fee of \$5.00 or \$15.00 for all 4 weeks. Call 219-926-1390 to sign up. **This week's topic: "rabbits"**

**2pm After Turkey Day Hike.** Put away the leftovers and join us for a refreshing, healthy hike in the dune woodlands. We'll pass oak forests and savannas while out on this 45-minute moderate hike. Strap on the hiking boots and join us. BB

## **Saturday November 28**

**10am High Dunes after Leaf Drop.** Come hiking with us this morning and enjoy the panoramic views from atop the high dunes now that the leaves have come down. Meet at the Nature Center for this hour hike. DG

**2pm Dune Gobblers!** Bring the kids for a look at the wild turkeys that live in the Indiana Dunes. We'll explore the life history of this fascinating bird and some of it's history with our own holidays. Meet in the Nature Center Auditorium.

## **Sunday November 29**

**10am Feed the Birds.** Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for the kids. DG

### **2pm Snowy Dunes- A Slide Show Tour.**

Come explore the sights and sounds of the Dunes within the comfort of the Nature Center Auditorium. We'll watch the winter season unfold and prepare for the snowy beauty that's close at hand. Join us for this 30 minute show. BB